



# Northside Center

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

*for Child Development, Inc.*

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March 25, 2003

Letter of Appeal  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
Schools and Libraries Divisions  
Box 125-Correspondence Unit  
80 South Jefferson Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981

Re: Commitment Adjustment Letter dated January 31, 2003  
Funding Year: 1999-2000  
Form 471 Application Number: 145762  
FCC: CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21  
Funding Request Number: 272219 SPIN: 143007419

On behalf of the Northside Center For Child Development, Inc. ("Northside"), I respectfully request an appeal to the commitment adjustment of \$109,192.50 for internal connections.

The Harlem Area of New York City, which has been served by Northside for more than fifty (50) years, is a community that has been, and continues today to be, in particular need of the funding provided by the E-rate Program that the Schools and Libraries Division sponsors. Since it was founded in 1946, Northside has developed and earned its reputation of providing the community with the highest quality, comprehensive mental health and educational services.

Indeed, the internet programs and services that have been and continue to be enjoyed by Northside's children would not be available without the support of the Schools and Libraries Divisions, E-rate Program. The Commitment Adjustment proposed by your letter for the 1999-2000 funding year must be reviewed in this context.

We are appealing the proposed adjustment of the entire funded amount for the 1999-2000 period (\$109,192.50), which is based solely on the fact that several inexpensive pieces of hardware ("Hubs") were acquired by Northside during the period but not installed until after the period. The proposed adjustment fails to consider (i) the reasons Northside decided to delay the installation of the Hubs, which were timely acquired and, more importantly, (ii) that all the Internet programs and services Northside proposed to offer based on the E-rate program funding for that period were, in fact, provided on budget and on time.

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### What Are Hubs:

The Hubs in question are hardware devices that permit peripheral computer **equipment**, such as printers, scanners and workstations, to be connected. Effectively, Hubs permit an existing network of **equipment** to be inexpensively **expanded**.

### The E-rate Hubs:

Northside **acquired six Hubs** for the E-rate program, as specified, during **the program** year in question. These Hubs **cost less than \$3,800.00**, which **was less than four (4%)** percent of the \$109,192.50 funded in that year. Nevertheless, **the** Commitment Adjustment Letter **proposes** to collect **the** entire \$109,192.50.

**During the** program year, Northside **was** able to **acquire** and install **all the other** E-rate equipment **and software and begin** offering **all the Internet programs and services** Northside represented it would offer to **its** children with the funding, **as more** fully described below.

In fact, Northside acquired the **Hubs** in **question** during **the program** year; **however**, Northside decided to delay the **installation of the Hubs until** later, **as their installation was** not required at that time in order for Northside to begin offering the **Internet programs and services** discussed. Northside's existing network, **without the need for the** expansion in that year **that the Hubs would have and now do** provide, was sufficient for **our** child population in that year.

### E-rate Internet Programs and Services Timely Provided by Northside:

**As** discussed with Ms. Alicia Mrozowski, a Project Manager with the Federal Communications Commission, during a **programmatic** audit for **the** year in **question**, Northside provided the following Internet programs and services.

#### **Northside uses the Internet in the classrooms:**

- To access information about **holidays**, downloading pictures, recipes, **songs, art** and information that enhance classroom discussions, displays, **and** information.
- To **access** information that will enhance **presentations and understanding of science and social studies** topics, **particularly** topics relating to **community** helpers and plants **and animals**, themes central to **the** K-1-2 curriculum. Northside is located near the lake at the **north end** of Central Park, and children **go** on **nature walks**. Then **they** use **the** Internet to **download** pictures of swans, ducks, **and trees**, and **to find out** more about them

- To give teachers access to information about the learning disabilities and mental conditions of the children they work with, to increase the depth of their understanding and to give them alternate methods of dealing with children under stress. With the Internet, they have been able to access articles from around the world that deal with relevant teaching issues.

Northside uses the Internet in its Library and Computer Lab in many ways:

- Northside's older children use the Internet to do research for school projects during our after-school programs. They use the Internet in the Library and in the computer lab to do research on school assignments and to look up famous people they are interested in.
- The Internet facilitates creative projects. One group of children has recently started a project where they will make their own rap songs and perform them. They are using the Internet first to find out information about rap stars they like, and writing up the information they find to share with each other.
- The Internet is used by our staff on an on-going basis, to find out the latest research information regarding education tools in assisting those students with mental health conditions of the children they treat; to find information that will be accessible to parents about how to understand and deal with their children; to find out information about upcoming conferences; and to contact colleagues through e-mail.

Teacher training on use of the Internet has been provided on an informal basis, with the computer Learning specialist helping out teachers who come to the Computer Lab, as well as going to their classrooms when requested to help them access information. In addition, classes for parents have been provided on Friday mornings to help them with many computer skills, including Internet navigation.

Northside offers Saturday classes, available to the surrounding Harlem Area community for a series of 8 weeks in the spring, include computer classes for adults for three hours on Saturday mornings, including such things as:

- Operation of a computer system
- Use of computer systems for problem solving, data collection, information management, communications, presentations, and decision-making.
- Use of the Internet and search engines.
- use of word processing, spreadsheets, e-mail, and printing programs.

As provided in the foregoing, the E-rate *funding* in question ~~was~~, in fact, ~~spent on the~~ equipment ~~and~~ software ~~Northside requested~~ and the equipment ~~and~~ software were ~~installed~~ in a ~~manner that~~ permitted Northside to offer all the Internet programs and ~~services it specified~~ and for the period ~~specified~~.

As far as I can determine, the sole basis of the Commitment Adjustment is that ~~several~~ Hubs, costing less than \$3,800.00, ~~that were~~ acquired timely and that did not ~~inhibit or~~ otherwise adversely affect the quality or timing of ~~the~~ Internet programs and ~~services~~ Northside specified, were not installed until after ~~the~~ program year. Accordingly, we ~~appeal the~~ Commitment Adjustment, which provides that the entire funding amount for that year must be ~~refunded~~. I do not believe the foregoing ~~facts and~~ circumstances substantiate that finding.

~~Should~~ you require ~~additional information concerning this matter~~, please do not hesitate to ~~contact~~ me at ~~your~~ convenience. ~~Of course~~, I would be ~~available to~~ meet with your ~~office~~ to discuss this ~~matter and~~ any questions ~~you~~ may have. We otherwise ~~intend~~ to preserve all ~~our~~ rights to appeal the Commitment Adjustment as provided by ~~stature~~.

Sincerely,



Paula Magnus  
Deputy Director of Finance and Administration

Cc: Thelma Dye, Executive Director  
FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington DC 20554

\*\*\* TRANSMISSION REPORT \*\*\*

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## TELEFAX COVER SHEET

TELEFAX TO: Appeals@sl.universalservice.org.  
 TITLE: SLD  
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 DATE: 3/25/03  
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 NUMBER OF PAGES: 5  
 (Including this cover page)  
 FROM: Paula Magnus  
 TELEPHONE / EXT: 212-426-3430  
 MESSAGE: Appeal Letter for funding year  
 1999-2000, FRN # 272219 in  
 Response to Commitment Adjustment letter from SLD  
 dated 1/31/03  
 CC: Thelma Dye, Northside